

**ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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Hoopeston Tire Fire – Illinois EPA Update to the Community for July 23, 2013**Site Cleanup Ordered**

The Illinois EPA has ordered J&R Used Tire Service, Inc. to clean up its site and tasked the environmental engineering firm, Weston Solutions, Inc., to assist in overseeing those activities. The tire recycling facility was destroyed in a tire fire that began on June 19.

J&R has contracted with demolition contractor, Lee Farms Excavating, Inc., and ELM Energy, LLC of Peoria, a remediation contractor, to fulfill requirements of a Preliminary Injunctive Order issued by the Circuit Court of Vermillion County, including performing soil and groundwater sampling, with additional cleanup requirements outlined in a Notice to J&R issued by Illinois EPA. If J&R is unable to respond in a timely manner to perform these required actions, the Illinois EPA will step in and perform the necessary work.

The Notice specifically requires J&R to immediately clear the adjacent property west of the railroad tracks and the southern half of the facility site of unburned tires, tire chips, metal debris and cooled waste materials, to properly dispose of or recycle those materials, and to quickly prepare plans for clearing the remainder of the facility site. Once the southern portion of the site has been cleared, the Hoopeston Fire Department should have adequate access and space to address the remaining “hot spots” of buried smoldering tire materials.

Extinguishing “Hot Spots” Strategy

The Illinois EPA has also requested the advice of its tire fire consultant concerning management of the residual smoldering tires and tire chips at the site. In consultation with Mayor Crusinberry and Fire Chief Crabtree, a strategy will be developed for the Fire Department to extinguish the remaining smoldering tires and tire chips as quickly as possible to enhance existing firefighting efforts and to help eliminate the need for further firefighting at the site. Illinois EPA is providing the assistance of its tire fire consultant and Weston’s thermal imaging capabilities to identify remaining buried hot spots on the site. At this time, it is anticipated that heavy equipment will be used to remove the surface material from the hot spot, allowing for efforts to be directed at the burning substrate. Clearing a portion of the site will provide space to move the materials and ensure they have been extinguished.

Water sprinklers were being used continuously at the site to prevent flare-ups from the hot spots, but were ultimately ineffective in extinguishing the buried smoldering materials; the sprinklers have been discontinued. The hot spot management strategy should ultimately reduce the amount of contaminated fire-fighting water runoff that requires treatment by the mobile treatment system operated by Illinois EPA’s contractor, Bodine Environmental Services, Inc.

Once the hot spots are extinguished, remaining site clearing work, environmental investigations and remedial work can commence under the review and oversight of the Illinois EPA.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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